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REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY USSR and Germany/ Soviet Zone

DATE DISTR. 26 Feb. 1954

SUBJECT Soviet Army Shoulder Boards

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REFERENCES:

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PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Officer Personnel

1. Source had no information on officer field shoulder boards. He gave the following information on officer dress shoulder boards:
 - a. All combat officers wore gold shoulder boards with red piping and red stripes except for the combat engineer officers, the color and piping of whose shoulder boards Source was not certain. Listed below are various type combat officers and the insignia they wore on their shoulder boards:
 - (1) All political officers - tank insignia.
 - (2) Chemical officer - Source never saw him wear any insignia.
 - (3) All artillery officers - crossed cannon insignia.
 - (4) All combat officers of tank battalions, the motorized rifle battalion (SMG), AAMG company, and SP battalion - tank insignia.
 - (5) Combat engineer officers - crossed hatchets insignia.
 - b. All technical officer personnel wore silver shoulder boards with red stripes and red piping. These officers included:
 - (1) All unit deputy CO's for technical affairs - tank insignia.
 - (2) All medical officers - a narrow shoulder board and medical insignia.

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(3) Other unidentified technical officers.

- c. There was no restriction on the color of stars and color of the branch insignia. Either gold or silver stars and insignia were freely interchanged regardless of the background color of the shoulder boards. Although the stars were always worn it was quite common to dispense with the wearing of the branch insignia. Source could give no explanation of this free usage but stated definitely that availability of supply was not a factor, since officers had no trouble in securing these items.

Enlisted Personnel

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2. Source had no information on EM field shoulder boards. the following information on EM dress shoulder boards:

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- a. All tank mechanics wore the standard shoulder boards, but with white stripes denoting rank.
- b. All auto mechanics wore the standard shoulder boards with white stripes and transportation insignia.
- c. All medical personnel wore the standard shoulder boards, but with either gold or silver medical insignia.
- d. All combat engineer company personnel wore black shoulder boards with dark blue piping and crossed hatchet insignia.
- e. All drivers other than tank and SP drivers wore standard shoulder boards, but with transportation insignia.

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